



NOAA National Current Observation Program and NOAA Teacher at Sea Opportunity

Have you ever dreamed of participating in exciting international scientific research? If you have, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program is looking for you!

We are seeking an energetic, adventurous, dedicated teacher for our sponsored NOAA Teacher at Sea project. Our Teacher at Sea will get to participate in the **NOAA National Current Observation Program**, travel to Alaska, and teach her/his classes via near real-time Web broadcasts and/or e-mail while onboard the NOAA Ship RAINIER. This is a collaborative sponsorship between the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program and the NOAA National Current Observation Program.

The Proposed Dates:

Ship Operations: Approximately May 17, 2004 – May 28, 2004

****Additional opportunities (land and sea) will be continuous from June - August**

The Location:

Research Cruise 1 – Depart from Petersburg, Alaska and arrive in Sitka, Alaska (Onboard NOAA Ship RAINIER)

****Additional opportunities (land and sea) will be continuous from June – August throughout Alaska**

The Science:

The National Current Observation Program (NCOP) is responsible for collection and analysis of data to meet the Nation's needs for current observations, tidal current predictions, and other tidal current products. The products from this program primarily support safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine commerce, hazardous material response, research and recreational users. Data is collected with current meters utilizing Doppler technology in sub-surface moorings, bottom mounts and mounted on piers. Each station will be deployed for a period of at least 30 days in order to obtain tidal constituents from harmonic analysis. Tidal current predictions are then published in the National Ocean Service Tidal Current Tables.

The NCOP 2004 field season will focus on two regions in Alaska, Cook Inlet and Southeast. Cook Inlet is one of the most important estuaries in the country and is a center of extensive oil drilling and transport and contains the Port of Anchorage which serves 80% of Alaska's population. It is also a region where an important ecological balance exists between the land and ocean. Navigation in Cook Inlet can be hazardous for both small recreational craft and large tankers due to, among other factors, swift tidal currents and extreme tidal ranges. Southeast Alaska is comprised primarily of more than one thousand islands of the Alexander Archipelago, with only the snow and glacier capped mountainous eastern edge on the continental mainland. Economically it is a region of timber, fishing, mining, and increasingly, tourism. Due to the lack of overland routes for all but a few cities and towns on the northern and southern extremes, a safe and effective maritime highway system is absolutely vital.

There will be two opportunities on the NOAA ship RAINIER in Southeast AK. The first (April 18 - April 26/30) will be a deployment only trip that will sail from Seattle, WA to Sitka, AK. The second (mid-late May) will occur from Petersburg, AK to Sitka, AK where several stations will be recovered and redeployed. Other opportunities will be available from June-August on contract vessels in Southeast and Cook Inlet, which could include recovery/deployment of current meter stations, tide gauge installations and a High Frequency Surface Current Mapper installation.

Further details about the research:

The Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) Main Web Site

The Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) collects, analyzes and distributes historical and real-time observations and predictions of water levels, coastal currents and other

meteorological and oceanographic data. The National Current Observation Program is managed by CO-OPS

<http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Teacher at Sea Program

Applications are available on this web page

<http://www.tas.noaa.gov>

Requirements/Qualifications:

- K-College level teacher currently employed by a school, college, or university (sabbaticals welcome)
- Unique ability to communicate scientific information to students, with a preferred special interest in ocean science
- **Principal/School district/supervisor/ head of department MUST be extremely supportive of your participating in the project (Note: project occurs during the school year)**
- Computer savvy (familiar with using a digital camera, e-mail, and MS Word a plus)
- Comfortable with travel (experienced traveler preferred)
- No problems spending time on a ship
- Valid passport (not necessary but preferred)

Costs:

All the necessary travel costs are covered by the sponsorship. In addition, a modest stipend will be paid. The teacher may travel to Washington, DC for an orientation and to at least one of the U.S research institutions that are involved in the experiment. While on the ship, the teacher will be expected to write daily logs, take (and transmit) digital pictures, interview scientists, film and host Web broadcasts, and prepare lesson plans involving the science. At the conclusion of this project, the teacher may be expected to attend a Congressional reception, hosted by her/his Representative and/or Senator(s).

If you are interested in this project, please start by visiting the NOAA Teacher at Sea Web site (<http://www.tas.noaa.gov>) and fill out the application and medical form.

It is very important to note on your application that you are interested in being a Teacher at Sea during the National Current Observation Program research cruise.

Once you complete and mail your application, **ALSO** send a copy of your resume to jennifer.hammond@noaa.gov. **All applications/resumes are due by April 5, 2004.**